

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-THIRD SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2008

852P0773

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14

Introduced by: Senators Hundstad, Apa, Bartling, Gray, Greenfield, Hoerth, Hunhoff, Maher, and Smidt (Orville) and Representatives Elliott, Burg, and Dennert

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Requesting the Governor, the Commissioner of School and
2 Public Lands, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks, and the Department of Environment
3 and Natural Resources to develop a system of managing and maintaining the state-owned
4 dams.

5 WHEREAS, there are one hundred eighty-two state-owned dams throughout the State of
6 South Dakota, built in the 1930s and 1940s by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) or
7 Civilian Conservation Corps. Eighty-four of these dams are currently managed by the
8 Department of Game, Fish and Parks and ninety-eight of these dams are currently managed by
9 the commissioner of School and Public Lands; and

10 WHEREAS, there is a system that provides for the inspection of the state-owned dams and
11 ranks their risk. However, there is no dedicated state funding source for the management,
12 improvement, repair, or maintenance of the state-owned dams; and

13 WHEREAS, the current system of state ownership of dams is dysfunctional and confusing.
14 There is a lack of information on the status of the state-owned dams for the stake holders in the
15 area of the dams. There is no mechanism or funding alternative for the stake holders to pursue



1 to improve, repair, and maintain the dams; and

2 WHEREAS, landowners, lake residents, downstream landowners, townships, municipalities,
3 counties, and many others have a major stake in the safety and condition of the dams in their
4 areas; and

5 WHEREAS, there is a need to significantly improve the current defective system of state-
6 owned dams:

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eighty-Third Legislature
8 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South
9 Dakota Legislature urges the Governor, the Commissioner of School and Public Lands, the
10 Department of Game, Fish and Parks, and the Department of Environment and Natural
11 Resources to work together to develop a system of managing the state-owned dams, evaluate
12 their risks, and communicate the risks to those in the area of each dam; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governor, the Commissioner of School and Public
14 Lands, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks, and the Department of Environment and
15 Natural Resources determine the amount of annual funding needed to address the management,
16 improvement, repair, and maintenance of the state-owned dams and the source of funding for
17 such purposes; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governor, the Commissioner of School and Public
19 Lands, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks, and the Department of Environment and
20 Natural Resources report their recommendations to the 2009 Legislature for action and
21 implementation to establish a system for the state-owned dams.